Abstract

[0046]   A method and processing node for processing node redundancy, wherein an unavailability of a primary processing node is first detected, and the linkset route to the unavailable node is inhibited by sending Transfer Prohibited (TFP) messages to Signal Transfer Point (STPs) adjacent to the unavailable node. Further, Transfer Allowed (TFA) messages are sent to the STPs
5   in order to enable an alternate linkset route to the secondary processing node, i.e. the standby backup node. A Virtual Service Address (VSA) is reassigned from the unavailable primary node to the remaining node that takes over the processing of the unavailable node and thus becomes the primary processing node.   The unavailability of the processing node may be detected via a heartbeat mechanism between the two redundant nodes, or via receipt of TFP messages from the
10   adjacent STPs. The method and processing node may be used in a hot standby configuration or in a load sharing configuration.